

*Adam Oldham*  
A N *Manchester*  
A B S T R A C T  
OF THE *J 15. 25*  
C A S E  
O F  
JAMES JURIN, M. D.

Written by Himself,

As far as relates to the taking of his  
Lixivium for the STONE and GRAVEL,



Printed only for the better Instruction and  
Direction of those who take that Medi-  
cine. MDCCCLXVII.

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Case of J A M E S J U R I N, M. D.

**F**OR some Years past I have been incommoded with Gravel of the common red Sort, but by taking from Time to Time the purging Waters with Manna and *Glauber's* Salt, I generally got rid of it pretty easily.

But having neglected to take this Medicine for about a Twelvemonth, or somewhat more, about *Christmas* 1740, I was seized with a severe nephretick Fit, accompanied, as usual, with frequent Vomiting. This held me for three or four Days, when, the Stone having passed the Ureter into the Bladder, the Vomiting and Pain ceased, and a Day or two after, upon taking my usual Purge, I voided a rugged red Stone, of the Size of a small Pea.

I now thought the Affair was over, and went about my Business as usual. But in the Months of *January* and *February* following, I was troubled with an unusual frequent Provocation to make Water, especially when abroad in the Cold. This led me to reflect, that the Stone I had voided, was hardly big enough to occasion so severe a Fit, as I had suffered the *Christmas* before; and made me suspect, that, besides that small Stone, a larger might have passed the Ureter at the same Time, and might now be in the Bladder.

And in this Suspicion I was further confirmed, upon finding towards the latter End of *February*, that my Urine would sometimes be suddenly stopped, while it was coming away in a full Stream; and that this Stoppage was accompanied with an uneasy Sensation at the Neck of the Bladder, as if a Stone had presented itself there, but was too big to pass. Another Remark I made was, that for almost two Months I had not voided any Gravel, contrary to my usual Custom for some Years past; and this made me think, that the fabulous Particles of my Urine, from which the Gravel had been usually formed, were now all bestowed in increasing the Bulk of the Stone by a constant Accretion. The Apprehension of this, and that the Stone would in a while become too big for being voided at all, put me upon using all the lenient Means I could think of for getting rid of it, but without Effect.

From this Time, I could not bear the Motion of my own Chariot upon the Stones (though not an uneasy one, being hung with the common Springs) without great Pain and making bloody Water, if I went any thing more than a Footpace: Nor could I walk to any considerable Distance, without the same Complaints, having sometimes made bloody Water upon walking only half a Mile, and that very gently. This I ascribed to the Effects of a Journey I lately took into the Country, in which the Coat of the Bladder having been much fretted and wounded by the Stone, it was thereby rendered susceptible of Injury from such Motion, as had not before put  
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ned, me to any Inconvenience. And that this was  
 ary, the true Reason, seemed to be confirmed from  
 only my bearing the slow Motion of the Chariot pret-  
 full ty well, when I first set out in a Morning, and  
 died my growing by Degrees more and more uneasy,  
 the the longer I used it; as likewise from my not  
 ere, failing to make bloody Water, in case I used it  
 made again in the Afternoon; so that in the After-  
 did- noons I was obliged either to walk, which I could  
 for only do very gently, and for a little Way, or  
 that else to make use of a Chair.  
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Being now fully persuaded, as well from  
 now what has been above related, as from several  
 one other Circumstances, that I had a Stone in my  
 n of Bladder, and that too big to get rid of by or-  
 be- dinary Means, I began seriously to consider,  
 me what Course I should take to avoid being cut.  
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Mrs. *Stephens's* Medicines, I was sensible, had  
 ion given great Relief to many Persons in my Con-  
 not dition; and some Number had to Appearance  
 ion been cured by them: But, on the other Hand,  
 body considered, that of those who had died and  
 ot- been opened, after they were reported to be cured  
 Dif- by taking her Medicines, there had not been one,  
 ng but what had a Stone or Stones found in the  
 ng Bladder To this I added, that the Number of  
 s I those who had taken those Medicines ineffectu-  
 ok ally, was very great: And it fell in my Way, to  
 id- be informed of not a few Instances of such, as  
 by after taking them for many Months together  
 of without any Benefit, had submitted to be cut, ra-  
 out ther than go on any longer with a Medicine so  
 me extremely nauseous, and which had greatly in-  
 creased

creased their Pains, without bringing any thing away.

These Considerations, joined to the Knowledge I had of the Weakness of my own Stomach, which could ill bear any nauseous Medicines, especially in large Quantities, and often repeated, made me turn my Thoughts to the Lixivium, or Lye, of which Soap is made.

This Lixivium, I knew, had been taken without Inconvenience by several Persons; and though the good Effects of it, which had come to my Knowledge, were not very considerable, yet that, I thought, might be owing to the Smallness of the Dose it had been given in. And from a careful Perusal and Consideration of the Experiments, made by my ingenious and learned Friend, to whom the World is so much indebted upon this and many other Accounts, the Rev. Dr. *Stephen Hales*, I was greatly inclined to think, that the Virtue of the Soap resided principally in the Lye, from which it was made; and that the Efficacy of the Lye for dissolving the Stone, was rendered less, as well as the Medicine was made much more nauseous and bulky, by the Addition of Oil or Fat to make it into Soap.

But an Experiment, which came a little near to my own Case, determined me to make Use of this Medicine. I mixed a Tea-spoonful of the Lixivium, with about two Ounces of River Water; and by a cold Infusion in this Mixture the Stone I had voided about *Christmas*, was dissolved in two Days.

Resolving therefore to enter into a Course of  
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this Medicine, I began it upon the 6th or 7th of *March*, 1740, for I kept no Journal, and continued it constantly for above six Months, when, by the Blessing of God, I found myself perfectly cured. But in order to make this Relation as useful as I can, I shall particularly describe

I. The Sort of Lixivium I used.

II. The Dose.

III. The Vehicle I took it in.

IV. The Regimen I observed.

V. The Observations I made during the Use of it, and the Success.

I. The Lixivium, or Lye, which I at first made use of, was what is commonly called the Capital Soap Lees, of this I took in all about Six Ounces. What I afterwards took, was the Lixivium of the first running, which is much stronger; but the Strength of it, even of that of the first running, was found to vary sometimes very considerably, notwithstanding the Direction I gave, to have it always, as nearly as possible, of the same Strength. And though I myself could pretty nearly judge of the Strength of every fresh Parcel, and could increase or lessen accordingly, the Dose I took; yet this could not be done by my Patients, especially by those which I seldom or never saw, after I had once settled them in a proper Course of taking this Medicine.

But that was not all. The Soap-lye was often attended with a Smell and Taste so exceedingly offensive, that many Persons could not keep it upon their Stomachs, and were obliged to discontinue the Use of it upon that Account.

These Inconveniences put me upon considering, whether a Medicine might not be made from the same Ingredients, and consequently of the same Virtue with the Soap-lye, which yet might be constantly of the same Strength, and might likewise be free from that nauseous Taste and Smell, with which the other is frequently accompanied.

After some Number of Trials, I at last happily accomplished this Design, by the Assistance of my Friends Mess. *Littlebury* and *Longley*, Apothecaries, opposite *Austin-friars*, *Old Broad-street*, who carefully prepare the Medicine by my Direction.

Of them Apothecaries or others may have it in any Quantity. This is what I use for myself and Patients, instead of the Soap-lye.

II. The Dose I at first took, was twenty Drops twice a Day; from which, finding no Inconvenience to my Stomach or Bowels, on the second Day I took the same Dose three Times: I then proceeded, by adding every Day ten Drops to each Dose, to take thirty, forty, fifty, and sixty Drops three Times a Day. I then gave over dropping the Lixivium, and took a Tea-spoonful three Times a Day, in a Vehicle somewhat larger than before; then the same Quantity four Times a Day; and soon after I came to take two Tea-spoonfuls at a Dose twice a Day, and one at a Dose two other Times a Day; to which Quantity I arrived before the end of *March*, and continued it for above five Months: But now  
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and then I went farther, taking seven, eight, and nine Tea-spoonfuls in a Day, sometimes by taking the Medicine oftener, and sometimes by taking three Tea-spoonfuls for one Dose. The Tea-spoon I used, held 114 Drops of the Lixivium from a small Vial; and as I poured into the Tea-spoon till it ran over, each Tea-spoonful was at least 120 Drops; so that I took usually 720 Drops in the Day, and sometimes 840, 960, or 1080. But as this is a very uncertain Way of measuring, because a Drop of any Liquor is larger or smaller in Proportion to the Surface it hangs by, it may be of more Use to observe, that an Ounce Troy of the Lixivium, thick and milky \* as I took it, makes nearly six Tea-spoonfuls and an half; so that I usually took about an Ounce Troy each Day, and sometimes an Ounce and a quarter or an Ounce and an half.

As for the Times of taking the Medicine, I could by no Means be regular, on account of my Business; and therefore took the largest Doses at my Dinner and Supper, one of the smaller ones at Breakfast, and the rest at such Times as I happened to be at Home.

III. The Vehicles I used, were of various Kinds; in the Morning sometimes Milk and Tea sweetened with Honey, balsamick Syrup, or Sugar; sometimes Milk and Lime-water sweetened in the same Manner: In the Afternoon sometimes the same Liquors as in the Morning, sometimes Lime-water and Honey, with a Glass of Sack,

\* Always shake the Bottle before you take it.

Sack, which made it fit better on my Stomach ; and sometimes Small-beer only. What I used at Dinner and Supper, was a Mixture of Small-beer and common sweet Ale from the Ale-house. Into a Glass holding about three Quarters of a Pint, I put my Dose of two, or sometimes three Tea-spoonfuls of Lixivium ; then filled the Glass with about equal Parts of the two Liquors, and after the first Draught, I added more Small-beer and Ale.

IV. The Regimen I observed, was only to abstain from every Thing that could be suspected of lessening the Efficacy of my Medicine ; which being highly alkaline, I forbore all Vinegar, Fruit and Wine, except now and then one Glass of Sack, or other sweet Wine, which I was sometimes obliged to take with the Lime-water and Honey in an Afternoon, as above-mentioned. In all other Things I observed no Regimen, living upon common Food of all Kinds ; and for Exercise, my Business gave me as much and more than I could well bear.

V. During this Course,

1. The first Observation I made, was, that the Provocations to make Water were more frequent and pressing than before, as also that I had more Pain in making it, and especially after it was made ; but this I bore with Patience, it being naturally to be expected from so sharp a Medicine coming into a Bladder fretted and wounded by the Stone, as mine was by the constant Use of  
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of the Chariot, To obviate this as well as I could, I made use of all the Springs that have been invented, both within and without the Chariot; notwithstanding all which, I could only go a Foot-pace upon the Stones, and could hardly ever use it twice a Day, without making bloody Water.

2. My second Observation, which gave me great Comfort amidst the Pains I endured, and which, from the Beginning of the Course, I had constantly attended to and waited for, was, that upon my coming to take three or four Teaspoonfuls of the Lixivium in a Day, my Water did not at all furr the Chamber-pot, as usual, how long soever it was suffered to stand therein. This made me not only conclude, that I was safe from any farther Increase of the Stone, but also gave me Hopes, that it was now beginning to dissolve. For it was reasonable to think, that whatever could prevent the fabulous Matter from precipitating and concreting in the Chamber-pot when the Water was cold, must not only hinder its doing so, while warm within the Bladder, but must also be acting upon the Stone towards a Dissolution. This Observation therefore I would particularly recommend to all Persons, who shall enter into a like Course.

3. Soon after, I had the Pleasure of observing an oleaginous colour'd Film, upon the Surface of the Urine, after it had stood some Hours, and likewise a calcarious Sediment, in pretty large Quantity, at the Bottom. This had the Appearance of a Confirmation of Dr. *Hales's* Hypothesis, that the Particles of the Lime and Pot-ash dissolve

dissolve the Stone, by licking off that oily Substance, which is the Band of Union to the fabulous Particles, I flattering myself with the Imagination, that the oleaginous Film arose from that oily Substance, which had before bound the Particles of the Stone together; and the calcarious Sediment consisted partly of those Particles, now loosened from the Surface of the Stone, and partly of the Particles of the Lime, which, upon the Water's cooling, might have separated from the oleaginous Particles, which composed the Film, just as the Particles of the Ochre separate from those which compose the coloured oleaginous Film, in *Tunbridge* and other chalybeate Waters, upon standing some Time exposed to the open Air.

4. The next Observation I made, was, that my Urine would sometimes be whitish and turbid when first made, especially what was discharged three or four Hours after taking my largest Dose: And this Urine deposited a calcarious Sediment in larger Quantity, and the oleaginous Film upon the Surface was thicker than before. This gave me great Hopes of being speedily rid of my Complaint. Forasmuch as the only nephretick Fit I had had, was that about *Christmas*, and I could be pretty sure, I had no Stone in the Bladder before that Time, as having been obliged to take frequent Journeys out of Town the latter End of the Year, when I had drove very fast in a rough-hung Chariot, such as are usually kept for Hire, without suffering any Pain or Inconvenience. So that if the Stone were but a little wasted, there  
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was Reason to think, it would be rendered small enough to pass the Urethra.

5. About the latter End of *June*, I grew sensibly easier, and from the beginning of *July* I felt no Pain, though I had as yet voided no Flakes nor Bits of Stone, nor any thing more than the calcarious Matter above-mentioned, I could now not only go about in my own Chariot. but did once or twice go in another much less easy, without Pain, or bloody Water.

6. On the tenth of *July* I voided a small smooth Stone, nearly of the Shape and Size of an Oat, which came away so imperceptibly, that had I not at that Time made use of a Chamber-pot, I should not have known that I had voided it. This Stone was of a reddish Colour, but paler than the Gravel I had formerly been used to void: Its Surface was very smooth, and was penetrated with small roundish Holes, much like those made in Books or in Wood when Worm-eaten.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of the same Month I voided a second Stone, shorter, but of more than twice the Diameter of the Former; in Colour, Smoothness of Surface, and Perforations, like the other. This I plainly perceived when it was passing, but with little or no Pain.

*August* the 6<sup>th</sup> I voided a third Stone, somewhat less than the second, but like it in all other Respects. And about the Beginning of *September* I passed another much smaller, about the Size of a Corking-pin's Head.

Some Time after voiding the last of these Stones, as I now thought myself quite well, be-

ing able to bear a Hackney Coach, or the roughest hired Chariot upon the Stones, or to walk three or four Miles, and sometimes more, without the least Inconvenience, I began to abate of the Quantity of my Medicine, coming from six or more, to four, afterwards to three, and then to two Tea-spoonfuls in a Day. Now also I drank Red-wine moderately, and eat Fruit, and used Vinegar, as before my Illness: And for the greatest Part of *October* and *November* I forbore any Use of the Medicine, when I found my Urine again furr'd the Chamber-pot, and I sometimes voided a little small Gravel, as I had formerly been accustomed.

But in *December* last, upon using a very rough Chariot for some Days, while my own was repairing, I had a little Return of my former Complaints; upon which I returned to the Use of the Lixivium, taking three Tea-spoonfuls, or near Half an Ounce in a Day, and having done this for about a Week, I voided a small rough reddish Stone, and then was perfectly easy. Since which, I continue to take two Tea-spoonfuls in a Day, in Small-beer and Ale, or Small-beer with a Glass of Sack or sweet Mountain; which Quantity I find pretty generally keeps my Urine from furring the Chamber-pot, and therefore I hope may be sufficient to prevent the Generation of fresh Gravel, either in the Kidneys, or in the Bladder.

From the Severity of the Pains I had undergone, and the Smoothness of the three Stones I voided in *July* and *August*, I make no doubt but they had once been much larger. Nor is it impro-

improbable, that I might have voided several others, besides what are above-mentioned. For as some of those came away insensibly, and others with no more Pain than what I often had in making Water only, it is not likely that all should come away when I used a Chamber-pot, and none at other Times, especially as I was usually absent from Home for great Part of the Day.

But whether those I voided, had originally been distinct Stones, or Parts of one larger Stone, cannot easily be determined; though I must needs say, I incline to the latter Opinion: And it is not difficult to conceive, how the medicated Urine, after eating out the more soluble Parts of a Stone, answering to the Perforations above-mentioned, might afterwards corrode the Partitions between those Perforations, and thereby reduce a large Stone into several smaller: And then the Edges and thinner Parts of these being dissolved, while the thicker Parts were less wasted, they might easily be brought to the Form they were voided in.

This plain Relation of Matter of Fact, may possibly give Encouragement to Physicians, to make farther Trial of the Medicine, and I heartily wish the like happy Success to all those who shall hereafter have Occasion to make use of it.

I take it constantly myself, very rarely missing a Day, and believe I shall be obliged to continue the Use of it as long as I live, For having made several Attempts to leave it off, I found by the Time I had forborn it for two or three Days only, that my Chamber-pot began again to furr,  
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and soon after, I began to void small Gravel. This obliged me to return immediately to my Medicine; for having suffered so much before, I durst not run the Hazard of having a new Stone generated.

About a Third of an Ounce in every four and twenty Hours, is commonly sufficient to keep me clear of Gravel, when I abstain from all Acids, and from Red-wine. But when I indulge myself in the Use of these, or when by Discontinuance of the Medicine, any small Gravel has been already formed, I find it necessary to take Half, or sometime two Thirds of an Ounce in that Time.

But to those, who are to get rid of a Stone, or Gravel of any considerable Bigness, I generally prescribe an Ounce, or thereabout, to be taken every Day, in three or four Doses; beginning with a Dram Weight in a Dose, three Times a Day, and encreasing it by Degrees.

To what is said above, about Vehicles to take it in, I shall only add, that a Glass of Sack in a Draught of Small-beer, renders the Medicine as pleasant as any Thing I have try'd; though *Malmsey-Madeira*, or any other sweet Wine, will do almost as well. But this is to be done when a Patient is arrived at the full Quantity of the Lixivium, and comes to take it in a Family-way: For at first I always direct it to be taken in some soft Vehicle, prepared by his Apothecary.

I can confidently recommend this Medicine in gravelly Cases, it not having failed in any one Instance that I know of.

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In case of a Stone in the Bladder, the Success is by no Means equally certain : But, I believe, this at least may be depended on, that while a Patient takes this Lixivium, in due Quantity, the Stone will never grow bigger, and no new ones will be generated.

By the best Observation I have been able to make, the Lixivium does not always operate in the same Manner, but works very differently upon different Stones.

One Stone, for Instance, shall gradually moulder into Powder, which comes away with the Urine, and by this Means shall in Time become small enough to pass the Urethra, as happened to myself.

And in this Case, the Patient generally grows much easier, if not quite easy, before the Stone is voided ; because the Surface of the Stone grows smoother, as it moulders away ; and grows softer before it moulders.

Another Stone, being, as I suppose, of a harder Nature, will likewise be gradually wasted by the Operation of the Medicine, but without any sensible Powder coming away, and without so much as the common Sediment appearing in the Urine for Weeks, and even for Months together.

In this Case, I suppose, what is licked up from the Surface of the Stone, may be no more than what the medicated Urine is capable of suspending ; as a Lump of Silver, in *Aqua Fortis*, or a Piece of Sugar-candy, in a Dish of Tea, will

lose some Part of its Bulk, and yet what is lost, will not appear in the Form of Powder, but be kept suspended in the clear Liquor.

But in this Case, as well as the former, I have known the Patient to become so easy, as to think himself perfectly cured; though I did not think so, because nothing sensible had been voided. The only Proof of a perfect Cure would be, that the Nucleus of the Stone was come away.

In these two Cases, I imagine all Parts of the Surface of the Stone to be in the same Degree of Hardness; or if any Parts are softer, and more easily dissolvable than the rest, that such are of very small Extent, like the Pin-holes described in the Stones I voided.

*Thirdly*, many Stones are wasted, not by a sensible or insensible Powder licked up by the Menstruum, but by the falling off of Scales, or Shivers, which come away from Time to Time. And this I think cannot happen, unless the Edges, and Under-parts of those Scales, are corroded sooner than the Substance of the Scale itself.

In this Case the Stone grows more unequal in its Surface than it was at first, being as it were honey-comb'd by the Separation of the Scales; and by this Means, as well as by the coming away of those Scales, whose Edges are commonly pretty sharp, the Patient must generally suffer more Pain than he did at first, and would always do so, were it not that the Asperities of the Surface of the Stone, and the Edges of the Scales, are rendered softer by the  
Medicine

Medicine, though they are yet not dissolved by it. Here Opiates are often necessary to ease the Pain, when very great: But when it is moderate, the Patient easily supports himself under it, by the Hope that the Stone, which grows gradually less, will in Time become small enough to pass the Urethra.

I am sensible that great Endeavours have been used to prejudice People against this Medicine, as if it were highly dangerous to the Constitution of such as take it. If those who do this have good Grounds for what they assert, they are to be commended for warning their Friends against it; but if not, Honour and Humanity ought to restrain them from running down a Medicine, that, for ought they know, may be highly serviceable to Mankind.

But Opposition to new Things and new Practices is not uncommon, nor perhaps without its Use, in causing them to be thoroughly examined into, before they are generally received.

No Medicine perhaps that was ever introduced into Physick, met with stronger and longer continued Opposition, than the *Peruvian Bark*.

No Practice was ever more vehemently contested, than that of Inoculation.

And yet both the one and the other have since triumphed over all their Opposers.

And this Lixivium, if it be found of Service to Mankind, must and will do so likewise.

For my part, I firmly believe it will, so firmly, that I would desire to be remembered  
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after Death, for nothing more than the Share I have had in introducing the Practice of Inoculation, and this Lixivium.

*Ringatur, quisquis ringitur Invidia.*

It may be of Use to add a Word or two more. I have met with and heard of a few Instances of Persons, who, by taking this Lixivium for the Stone, have found themselves greatly relieved in their gouty Complaints. Nor is this much to be wondered at, those two Distempers being so near of Kin. For the *Tophi*, or Gout Stones, upon a Chymical Analysis, appear very little different from the Stone of the Kidney or Bladder; and dissolve as readily in this Lixivium.

I need not say, that this Lixivium is serviceable in other Cases, for which Soap is usually prescribed, particularly in the Jaundice. That will easily be allowed, if we consider, that it contains all the Ingredients of Soap, except the Oil: And that, if thought necessary, in order for purging, is easily added. But either without this Addition, or with it, the Lixivium is, without Comparison, easier to take than the Soap; because we can upon Occasion put in a sweet, inoffensive Oil, instead of that rank and nauseous one which is contained in the Soap after boiling.

F I N I S